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(54) **Bumper for vehicles having optimal mechanical properties to improve pedestrian protection**

(57) The bumper (1) is designed to have optimal mechanical properties which improve the pedestrian protection. The bumper essentially consists of a cover (10), an absorber (optional) (21,22,23) arranged beneath the cover and the mounting elements to connect a cover and absorber to the vehicles body. The optimal mechanical properties to improve the pedestrian protection are

according to the invention achieved by various embodiments, the general principle of which is that the stiffness of the lower portion of the bumper in its mounted position is increased relative to the upper portion of the bumper. By making the lower portion of the bumper which is directed forwardly into the direction of driving stiffer, the impact force in case of collision with a pedestrian is concentrated on the lower portion of the bumper.

